





WORLD LANGUAGES

CONTENT STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS



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VISION	World languages is the study of languages and cultures. Learners develop the ability to communicate interlinguistically and interculturally and gain insight into themselves and others. They acquire knowledge of the structure and function of languages and societies. Studying languages provides learners with access to the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a global community, marketplace, and workplace.	
	A linguistically literate individual in a multinational community:	
	 communicates across cultures; develops insight into one's own language and culture; recognizes language learning as a lifelong process; acquires new information/content; makes connections with other disciplines; participates socially and economically in a national, multinational, and international community; demonstrates familiarity with contributions of other cultures; and understands and values diversity. 	
CONTENT STANDARDS	The study of world languages is a unique discipline. Language acquisition does not occur in an additive manner. Content standards must be flexible and attainable by students starting additional language learning at different times and participating in different types of programs. The degree and depth to which students attain these standards will be commensurate with the length and depth of relevant instruction.	
	All students will:	
Using a Non-English Language	1. identify and use a non-English language appropriately to perform a variety of tasks, in a variety of contexts, and utilizing a variety of content;	
Using Strategies	2. use a variety of strategies to communicate in a non-English language;	
Written Discourse	3. process and produce written discourse effectively in a non-English language;	
Expression and Inquiry	4. use a non-English language as a means of expression and inquiry;	
Constructing Meaning	5. extract meaning and knowledge from authentic non-English language texts, media presentations, and oral communication;	
Linking Language and Culture	6. connect a non-English language and culture through texts, writing, discussion, and projects;	
Acquiring Knowledge	7. use a non-English language to acquire knowledge and connect to other disciplines;	
Global Community	8. define and characterize the global community;	
Diversity	9. identify diverse languages and cultures throughout the world; and	
Learning as a Lifelong Process	10. recognize learning a new language as a lifelong process.	

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WORKING DRAFT CONTENT STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

Using a Non-English Language

Content Standard 1: All students will identify and use a non-English language appropriately to perform a variety of tasks, in a variety of contexts, and utilizing a variety of content.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Understand and respond to . familiar questions and commands.	Understand and engage in . conversation on familiar topics. on familiar topics.	Understand main idea and some details of connected discourse.
		Narrate orally and in writing (present, past, and future) events in areas of personal and public interest.
		Sustain conversation on familiar topics.
Derive meaning from oral and visual stimuli and respond appropriately.	Derive meaning from oral, visual, and limited written stimuli and respond appropriately.	Derive meaning from oral, visual, and limited written stimuli and respond appropriately.
Interact orally on familiar topics.	Participate successfully in familiar survival situations and interactions.	Initiate, sustain, and bring closure to a variety of communicative tasks or situations.
Express preferences orally.	Express some thoughts, ideas, and preferences in oral and written form.	Express thoughts, ideas, preferences, and opinions in oral and written form.
Use learned utterances to satisfy immediate needs.	Use another language for personal communication needs.	Use another language for personal and public communication needs.
Copy or transcribe familiar words and phrases.	Copy or transcribe familiar words, phrases, and some sentences.	Transcribe and produce familiar idioms and limited extended discourse.

Using Strategies

Content Standard 2: All students will use a variety of strategies to communicate in a non-English language.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Recognize and interpret some	Understand and interpret the	Understand, interpret, and produce
gestures, facial expressions, and	significance of some appropriate	appropriate gestures, facial expressions,
body language.	gestures, facial expressions, and	and body language.
	body language.	
Derive meaning from visuals.	Ask for clarification and repetition.	Negotiate meaning by asking for and using
		repetition, clarification, and recombination.
Use cognates to communicate	Use cognates to express needs,	Use circumlocution to express needs,
wants, needs, and preferences.	thoughts, ideas, and preferences.	thoughts, ideas, preferences, and opinions.
Ask for clarification and repetition.	Guess intelligently.	Guess intelligently and respond
		appropriately.
	Apply prior knowledge.	Apply prior knowledge to formulate new
		ideas.
	Make some inferences and	Make inferences, predictions, and
	predictions.	generalizations.
		Make and check hypotheses.
	Derive meaning from visuals and	Derive meaning from contexts.
	contexts.	
		Draw conclusions in interactions with
		individuals from other cultures.

Written Discourse

Content Standard 3: All students will process and produce written discourse effectively in a non-English language.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Recognize the writing systems of	Produce limited written discourse.	Understand and produce main ideas from
other languages.		narration and description.
Copy or transcribe familiar words	Use oral language to generate	Write simple discourse of more than one
or phrases and produce some from	written language.	paragraph on familiar topics.
memory.		
Label familiar objects and	Meet basic writing/recording needs	Meet a number of practical writing needs
representations of concepts and	such as lists, short messages,	using lists, notes, short letters, and
ideas.	postcards, and journals.	journals.
		Take notes on oral and written discourse
		dealing with familiar topics.
	Express in writing personal	Express in writing personal information,
	information and preferences.	ideas, thoughts, preferences, and opinions.

Expression and Inquiry

Content Standard 4: All students will use a non-English language as a means of expression and inquiry.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Understand predictable questions	Understand and respond to	Understand, respond to, and formulate
and commands.	questions and commands.	questions and discussion.
Interact orally on familiar topics.	Interact successfully in familiar	Interact successfully in daily social
	social situations.	situations.
Use appropriate vocabulary to	Interact successfully in most oral	Interact successfully in basic
express limited personal needs.	communicative tasks.	communicative tasks.
	Request clarification when needed.	Request clarification when needed.

Constructing Meaning

Content Standard 5: All students will extract meaning and knowledge from authentic non-English language texts, media presentations, and oral communication.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Begin to interact appropriately in	Participate successfully in limited	Participate successfully in work and
limited social situations.	routine social situations in other	routine social situations in other cultures.
	cultures.	
Recognize some aspects of other	Recognize representations of other	Identify cultural constructs and the way
cultures represented in one's own	cultures in the media.	they are reflected in other societies.
environment.		
	Recognize some similarities and	Recognize the differences between one's
	differences between one's own	own culture and other cultures and act in
	culture and other cultures.	ways that reflect that knowledge.
		Understand the main idea and most detail
		from authentic texts in areas of high
		interest.
	Strengthen the development of	Strengthen one's develop in other
	other languages through the use of	languages through the use of authentic
	some authentic texts, media, and	texts, media, and through contact with
	through contact with individuals	individuals from other cultures using other
	from those cultures using other	languages.
	languages.	

Linking Language and Culture

Content Standard 6: All students will connect a non-English language and culture through texts, writing, discussion, and projects.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Recognize ways in which language	Recognize and demonstrate a	Recognize and demonstrate a limited
reflects culture.	limited understanding of the ways	understanding of the ways in which
	in which language reflects culture.	language reflects culture.
Begin to recognize differences and	Recognize some similarities	Recognize similarities between one's own
similarities between one's own	between one's own language and	language and culture and other languages
language and culture and other	culture and other languages and	and cultures and use this knowledge to
languages and cultures.	cultures.	strengthen an understanding of both.
	Begin to use knowledge to	Compare and contrast ways in which
	strengthen an understanding of	people from other cultures interact with
	both languages and cultures.	each other based on factors such as: topic,
		age, gender, and social relationship.
		Apply the growing knowledge of other
		cultures in relationship to a variety of
		authentic texts (e.g. oral, written, and
		video).

Acquiring Knowledge

Content Standard 7: All students will use a non-English language to acquire knowledge and connect to other disciplines.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Use limited aspects of other	Use other languages to obtain and	Use other languages to obtain, reinforce,
languages to obtain some	reinforce knowledge of other	and further knowledge of other disciplines.
knowledge of other disciplines.	disciplines.	
Use some knowledge acquired	Use knowledge acquired through	Acquire knowledge that is only available
through other languages to begin to	other languages to begin to expand	through other languages and cultures.
expand one's own personal	one's own personal knowledge and	
knowledge and experience.	experience.	
		Use information acquired through other
		languages and cultures in the study of
		other disciplines.
		Use knowledge acquired through other
		languages and cultures for expansion of
		personal knowledge and experience.
	Recognize a perspective that is	Recognize and demonstrate the concept of
	only available through other	multiple cultural languages and cultures.
	perspectives.	

Global Community

Content Standard 8: All students will define and characterize the global community.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Utilize technology to begin to	Utilize technology to communicate	Utilize technology to communicate
develop an awareness of the global	personal information across	personal and public information across
community.	cultures.	cultures.
Begin to develop an awareness of the relationship of professions in one's own culture to those in other cultures.	Relate one's knowledge of other languages to some professions within the world community.	Relate the knowledge of other languages to a variety of professions within the world community.
	Develop an awareness of some contemporary social, political, and	Obtain new information and insights on contemporary social, political, and
	economic issues across cultures.	economic issues across cultures.

Diversity

Content Standard 9: All students will identify diverse languages and cultures throughout the world.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
	Identify some important dates,	Identify significant contributions of other
	events, and people and discuss	cultures to the arts, music, humanities,
	their significance to one's own and	social sciences, history, sciences, and
	other cultures.	mathematics in the United States and
		internationally.
	Recognize areas of the world	Identify significant contributions of
	where other languages are spoken.	individuals from other cultures to the
		internal and external political arena.
	Understand the relationship	
	between geography and culture.	
Exhibit an awareness of other	Exhibit an awareness of and	Recognize other cultures as an integral part
cultures.	respect for other cultures.	of the culture of the United States.
Begin to demonstrate a respect for		Recognize other cultures as an integral part
other cultures.		of the culture of the world community.
		Describe, analyze, and explain cultural
		norms.

Learning as a Lifelong Process

Content Standard 10: All students will recognize learning a new language as a lifelong process.

Elementary	Middle School	High School
Demonstrate an independent motivation to learn another language.	Demonstrate growth and interest in the language studied.	Demonstrate continued growth and interest in the language studied.
Demonstrate curiosity about language as a means of communication.	Demonstrate awareness of the process of language acquisition.	Demonstrate interest in the study of additional languages.